

Message Text

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14
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11708

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR, UR
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST VIEWS OF RECENT PS/CPSU TALKS

REF: A. PARIS 21444, B. MOSCOW 11533 (NOTAL)

1. TWO POINTS IN REF A STRUCK US AS PARTICULARLY NOTE-
WORTHY:

--ARGUMENT ADVANCED BY BOTH PONOMAREV AND ZAGLADIN THAT
SOVIET COMMITMENT TO DETENTE STEMS IN LARGE PART FROM
SOVIET DOMESTIC NEEDS; AND
--ZAGLADIN'S ASSERTION THAT BREZHNEV TOLD POLITBURO CPSU
HAD LITTLE TO GAIN FROM FURTHER ECPC-LIKE MEETINGS.

2. WHILE THE CPSU'S PITCH ON DETENTE UNDOUBTEDLY WAS
TAILORED FOR THIS PARTICULAR AUDIENCE, WE DO NOT RECALL
SEEING OR HEARING SOVIET SPOKESMAN FOCUS AS CLEARLY
AS PONOMAREV AND ZAGLADIN APPARENTLY DID ON DOMESTIC
ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS AS PRIME DETERMINANT FOR CPSU'S
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CURRENT EMPHASIS ON RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION.

3. ZAGLADIN'S REPORTED COMMENT REGARDING BREZHNEV'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD FURTHER ECPC-LIKE MEETINGS IS IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO LINE TAKEN IN RECENT SOVIET TV PANEL DISCUSSION OF ECPC (REF B). ON THAT OCCASION, CPSU CC "CHIEF CONSULTANT" SHISHLIN SINGLED OUT PORTION OF BREZHNEV 'S ECPC SPEECH WHERE BREZHNEV SAYS IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE MULTILATERAL MEETINGS FROM TIME TO TIME WITH THE AIM OF EXCHANGING OPINIONS ON VITAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS (STATED AIM OF ECPC WAS TO EXCHANGE OPINIONS ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE). DURING THE TV SHOW, IN WHICH SHISHLIN AND ZAGLADIN WERE THE ONLY PARTICIPANTS, ZAGLADIN NODDED APPROVINGLY AS SHISHLIN NOTED THAT THIS PART OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECH EVOKED MUCH FAVORABLE COMMENT. SHISHLIN NOTED THAT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS MIGHT BE HELD ON IDEOLOGICAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL QUESTIONS. IT IS CURIOUS THAT ZAGLADIN PLAYED A DIFFERENT TUNE FOR HIS PS VISITORS.

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